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LETTER DATED 4 MARCH 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that on 29 January 1997 four representatives of the Kuwaiti authorities abducted the Iraqi citizen Riyad Ubayd Radan (21) while he was tending camels in the Iraqi part of the demilitarized zone. They took him to a Kuwaiti prison on the border, where he was physically abused by a group of Kuwaitis from the so-called "State Security". After 15 days of torture and ill treatment, he was found lying near the border fence, unable to walk because he had been tortured with corrosive chemicals which had burned his lower limbs, inflamed internal tissue and damaged the bones. He is now being treated in a hospital in Basra Governorate.

This Iraqi citizen (photograph enclosed), speaking with great difficulty as a result of being subjected to savage torture by representatives of the Kuwaiti authorities, stated that while he was in the Kuwaiti prison he learned that hundreds of prisoners were being subjected to physical torture. Their screams could be heard coming from their prison cells.

In condemning and deploring these inhumane practices of the Kuwaiti authorities, my Government considers Kuwait to bear complete responsibility for the physical and moral damage sustained by the Iraqi citizen Riyad Ubayd Radan and affirms its legitimate right to seek compensation for all such damage in accordance with the principle of State responsibility.

I request your intervention with Kuwait with a view to inducing it to desist from these grave and unwarranted acts of aggression - as being in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of international law and the principles of human rights and as having the effect of creating an atmosphere of tension in the demilitarized zone instead of promoting security and stability there - and in order to show that this provocative act constitutes a violation of the demilitarized zone on Kuwait's part.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative